

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 756

By Thompson

A RESOLUTION to welcome Afghan refugees to this State.

WHEREAS, the United States was engaged in combat actions for twenty years in Afghanistan against Al Qaeda and its sponsor, the Taliban; and

WHEREAS, many Afghan citizens assisted the United States and her allies during this long period of conflict by providing intelligence, acting as interpreters, serving in the Afghan Army, and serving in many other supportive roles; and

WHEREAS, after the withdrawal of armed forces from Afghanistan, the Taliban assumed control of most of Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, branches of ISIS also assumed control of parts of the country; and

WHEREAS, these new leaders threaten to harm and kill those Afghans who assisted Americans troops; and

WHEREAS, many of our allies among the Afghan people fear for their lives and the lives of their families; and

WHEREAS, possibly over 100,000 of these individuals have requested asylum in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a long tradition and history of accepting refugees from dangerous, oppressive, and war-torn countries to be permanent residents and citizens of our country; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee, as the Volunteer State, has voluntarily accepted its share of these refugees in the past; and

WHEREAS, refugees have largely become hard-working and law-abiding neighbors who help foster safe and diverse Tennessee communities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we stand willing to readily accept Afghan refugees to our State and urge all social service agencies, public and private, to assist refugees by providing for their immediate needs and helping them to assimilate in our communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.